

What is claimed is:

5 *Art A1* 7

10 *102* *77245*

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1. A highly stretchable, seamless foot sock that conforms to the underlying portions of the body when donned, said sock comprising: a seamless, elongated fabric receptacle for receiving the foot and at least a portion of the leg of the wearer, said receptacle presenting an open leg end, through which the foot and leg of the wearer are inserted when the sock is donned, and a closed toe end, said receptacle including a toe section that is at least in part tapered toward the toe end and projects from the toe end for receiving the toes of the wearer, a tubular generally straight leg section that is adjacent the leg end and is dimensioned to receive at least a portion of the leg of the wearer, and a tubular generally straight foot section extending between the leg section and toe section of the receptacle, said toe, foot and leg sections of the receptacle being knitted of a common high-stretch yarn and being configured to cause the yarn to stretch when the sock is donned, said yarn comprising multiple corespun strands, each of which includes an elastomeric core and an outer sheath of substantially nonelastic fibers. *1/44*

2. A foot sock as claimed in claim 1, said elastomeric core comprising a spandex filament.

3. A foot sock as claimed in claim 2, *Art A2* 7 said sheath including channeled polyester fibers.

4. ¹⁹ A foot sock as claimed in claim ³ *8*, said sheath including antimicrobial acetate fibers.

5. ²⁰ A foot sock as claimed in claim ⁴ *19*, said leg section having at least a portion thereof that is formed of a distinct knitting pattern that is different from that of the toe and foot sections and any remaining portion of the leg section.

6. ²¹ A foot sock as claimed in claim ⁸,₂₀
said distinct knitting pattern comprising a plurality of interlacing looped knit-and-tuck courses.

5 7. ²² A foot sock as claimed in claim ⁸,₂₁
said knit-and-tuck courses including a plurality of tuck courses, each having every other loop formed of a tuck stitch, and a plurality of plain knit courses, with there being two plain knit courses between every two tuck courses.

10 8. ²³ A foot sock as claimed in claim ⁸,₂₀
said distinct knitting pattern comprising a plurality of interlacing looped cuff-forming courses that cause said at least a portion of the leg section to form a folded over cuff.

15 9. ²⁴ A foot sock as claimed in claim ⁸,₂₃
said cuff-forming courses including a final course that defines one circumferential extremity of said at least a portion of the leg section, a connecting course, and a plurality of intermediate courses located between the connecting course and final course,

20 said connecting course including a plurality of spaced apart connecting loops that extend across the intermediate courses and interlace with the final course.

25 10. ²⁵ A foot sock as claimed in claim ⁹,₂₄
said connecting course including a pair of plain knit loops between every two of the connecting loops.

30 11. ²⁶ A foot sock as claimed in claim ⁹,₂₄
said distinct knitting pattern including a plurality of circumferential, auxiliary elastic strands laid in the cuff-forming courses.

12. 27

A foot sock as claimed in claim 11, 26
said elastic strands being arranged in pairs, with each of the pairs of elastic
strands being laid in a respective interlacing pair of the intermediate
courses,
5 said pairs of elastic strands being spaced apart by four of the intermediate
courses.

13. 3

A foot sock as claimed in claim 1,
10 said leg section including an upper portion adjacent the top end of the
receptacle and a lower portion that extends between the upper portion
and the foot section,
said upper portion of the leg section being formed of a distinct knitting pattern
that is different from that of the lower portion of the leg section.

14. 4

A foot sock as claimed in claim 13, 3
said distinct knitting pattern comprising a plurality of interlacing looped knit-
and-tuck courses.

15. A foot sock as claimed in claim 14,

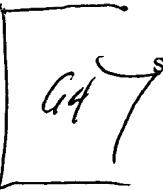
20 said knit-and-tuck courses including a plurality of tuck courses, each having
every other loop formed of a tuck stitch, and a plurality of plain knit
courses, with there being two plain knit courses between every two tuck
courses.

16. 5

A foot sock as claimed in claim 13, 3
said distinct knitting pattern comprising a plurality of interlacing looped cuff-
forming courses that cause said upper portion of the leg section to form
a folded over cuff.

17. A foot sock as claimed in claim 16,

30 said cuff-forming courses including a final course that defines one
circumferential extremity of the upper portion of the leg section, a
connecting course, and a plurality of intermediate courses located
between the connecting course and final course,

5  said connecting course including a plurality of spaced apart connecting loops that extend across the intermediate courses and interlace with the final course.

10 18. ³⁰ A foot sock as claimed in claim ^{17, 29}
said connecting course including a pair of plain knit loops between every two of the connecting loops.

15 19. ³¹ A foot sock as claimed in claim ^{18, 30}
said distinct knitting pattern including a plurality of circumferential, auxiliary elastic strands laid in the cuff-forming courses.

20 20. ³² A foot sock as claimed in claim ^{19, 31}
said elastic strands being arranged in pairs, with each of the pairs of elastic strands being laid in a respective interlacing pair of the intermediate courses,
said pairs of elastic strands being spaced apart by four of the intermediate courses.

25 21. A foot sock as claimed in claim 13,
said toe section comprising at least one toe pocket dimensioned to receive at least one of the toes of the wearer therein,
said at least one toe pocket including two knitted panels that are collapsible flatly against one another,
said panels presenting opposite lateral extremities that taper toward the toe end, with the panels being at least partly interconnected along each of the extremities by fashion stitches.

30 22. ³⁴ A foot sock as claimed in claim ^{21, 33}
said receptacle including a heel section configured to receive the heel of the wearer therein,
said heel section being knitted of the common high-stretch yarn and extending only partly around the circumference of the receptacle between the foot section and the lower portion of the leg section,

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5 said heel section comprising a heel pocket that presents a closed end and includes two knitted sidewalls which are collapsible flatly against one another,

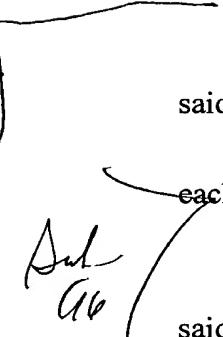
5 said sidewalls tapering toward the closed end and being at least partly interconnected along their opposite lateral extremities by fashion stitches.

25. 35 A foot sock as claimed in claim 22, 34

10 said toe, foot and heel sections and the lower portion of the leg section all being formed of plain knit courses.

24. 36 A foot sock as claimed in claim 22, 34

15 said receptacle including a top section projecting from the top end thereof, said top section being knitted of a heat fusible yarn that prevents fraying of the receptacle when melted.

20  25. A foot sock as claimed in claim 1,

20 said toe section comprising a plurality of toe pockets, each being dimensioned to receive one of the toes of the wearer therein,

each of said toe pockets including two knitted panels that are collapsible flatly against one another, with the panels presenting opposite lateral extremities that taper toward the toe end,

25 said panels being at least partly interconnected along each of the extremities by fashion stitches.

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26. A foot sock as claimed in claim 1,

25 said multiple corespun strands comprising two oppositely twisted strands.

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